

Wadad Kadi response to citation

President Dorman:

To be awarded an honorary degree from any institution of higher education is a great honor; to be awarded such a degree from one's own *alma mater*, in one's own country and city of birth, and among family and friends, is much more than an honor: it is a humbling vote of confidence in past work as much as a challenge for future work, but above all a source of profound gratitude. AUB: you have launched my career by giving me a superb education, and now you award me for realizing the potential of that education in more parts of the world than one. You, thus, are as much the object of this tribute as I am. I thank you wholeheartedly for equipping me with the proper education in the past, and for the huge honor you are bestowing upon me today, one I will cherish as a unique treasure as long as I live.

With your permission, Mr. President, I would like to add a small, personal note of recollection. I received my B.A. and M.A. diplomas in this magnificent, glorious Green Field, and I was looking forward with great anticipation to receiving my Ph.D. diploma there too. The situation in the country, however, did not permit that, and the graduating students had to be broken down into groups and handed their diplomas and hoods, one group after another, in the Assembly Hall on the upper campus. It was a big disappointment for all of us — it felt as if our graduation dream was only partially fulfilled. Little that I knew then, in 1973, that, almost forty years later, the President of AUB would place a hood on my gown and hand me another diploma on this magnificent, glorious Green Field. Mr. President: you and the bodies of the University that nominated me for this honorary doctorate have effectively worked a miracle, namely fulfilling the dream of a young graduating Ph.D. student in her twenties decades ago. This student, now still a student but not so young, is simply over the moon!